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Beneficiary Features of American Trade Unions. By JAMES B. KENNEDY, Professor of Political Economy in Wells College. Johns Hopkins University Studies in Historical and Political Science, November–December, 1908. (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press.)

This is a comprehensive and carefully prepared account of the beneficiary features of national trade union organizations. The local unions are not included, except where it is necessary to show the development of national systems out of local practices or where the conduct of a national system restrains or makes use of local agencies. An interesting introduction summarizes the history in three periods, the first ending about 1830, during which the local associations laid great stress on beneficiary functions. The second period, from 1830 to 1880, when local unions were combining into national unions and the effort to gain membership predominated, brought with it the doctrine that benefit features were a hindrance. The third period, since 1880, when national unions have established their control over locals, and when the problem is one of retaining, as much as gaining, membership, has brought American unions around to a higher appreciation of benefit features. Dr. Kennedy, however, seems to reach the conclusion that the beneficiary features are not of material importance from the standpoint of the trade policies of the union, and this naturally follows if one relies on a study of those features in themselves or endeavors to connect statistically the two branches of trade unionism. Admirably, indeed, as he has done his specialized work, he does not give enough weight to the two great objects of the unions in their espousal of benefits, that of strengthening the national unions against the locals, and that of attracting workmen away from reliance on employers and other fraternal societies towards greater and greater reliance on their trade unions. These objects do not always stand out and they are not always formally stated by the officers or members, but they are the constant accompaniment of each step in the progress of unionism, enforced and guided by sheer experience. Reading Dr. Kennedy's monograph with these objects in mind, one can see the part they have played, and this would be all the more evident if the study could be made from the shop and the local union as well as from the records of the national unions.

The monograph has a good index, and it serves the purpose of an authentic and valuable guide to the beneficiary activities of all national unions.

JOHN R. COMMONS.

University of Wisconsin.

Unemployment, a Problem of Industry. By W. H. BEVERIDGE, Stowell Civil Law Fellow of University College, Oxford; Formerly Subwarden of Toynbee Hall; Late Member of the Central (Unemployed) Body for London. (New York: Longmans, Greene & Company, 1909. Pp. xvi, 317.)

In a small volume Mr. Beveridge gives one of the most searching analyses of unemployment that has yet been made. His conclusions are drawn from the experience of the distress committees organized under the Unemployed Workmen Act of 1905. In striking agreement with his analysis of the problem is the minority report of the Poor Law Commission. Both agree as to the fundamental causes of unemployment and similar measures for future action are recommended by both.

Mr. Beveridge sounds his keynote in the sub-title A Problem of Industry. The problem, as he discusses it, is not how to care for the man out of work, but to learn why he has no job. Emphasis is placed first on the fact that unemployment lies at the root of most other social problems. Security of employment for the breadwinner is at the basis of sound social action. An individual is not self-supporting unless his earnings are sufficient to keep him through life. An industry is not self-supporting unless it yields wages, not only for the period of employment but for periods of unemployment as well. The problem to be studied, then, is not *the unemployed* but *unemployment*.

In technical language the evil of unemployment is the maladjustment between the supply of labor and demand for it. Mr. Beveridge dispels the fear of "overpopulation" by showing, first, that no insufficiency of land exists; and, second, that statistics show no pressure on the means of subsistence, since the per capita wealth of England increased from £27 in 1867 to £40 in 1901. This has been accompanied by an increase per head in the consumption of the staple commodities. On the other hand,